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A

VOYAGE

ROUND THE

WORLD,

IN

His BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S Sloop, RESOLUTION,

commanded by Capt. JAMES COOK, during the Years 1772, 3, 4, and 5.

By GEORGE FORSTER, F.R.S.

Member of the Royal Academy of MADRID, and of the Society for promoting Natural Knowledge at BERLIN.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

On ne repouſſe point la verité ſans bruit,
Et de quelque façon qu'on l'arrête au paſſage.
On verra tôt-ou-tard que c'étoit un outrage,
Dont il falloit qu'au moins la *honte* fut le fruit. DE MISSY.

LONDON,

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MDCCLXXVII.

[TITLE PAGE]

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1774. March.

CHAP. IV.

An Account of Eaſter Iſland, and our Stay there.

X 175 Sunday 13. 133 ON the 13th, early in the morning, we ran cloſe to the ſouth point of the iſland, where the ſhore roſe perpendicularly, and conſiſted of broken rocks, whoſe cavernous appearance, and black or ferruginous colour, ſeemed to have been produced by ſubterraneous fire. Two detached rocks lay about a quarter of a mile off this point; one of them was ſingular on account of its ſhape, reſembling a huge column or obeliſk, and both were the habitations of numerous ſea-fowls, which ſtunned our ears with their diſcordant ſcreams. Soon after we opened another point about ten miles diſtant from this, and as we advanced we perceived the ground gently ſloping to the ſea. On the ſlope we diſcovered ſeveral plantations by the help of our glaſſes; but the ſurface of the iſle in general appeared to be extremely dreary and parched, and theſe plantations were ſo thinly ſcattered upon it, that they did not flatter our hopes of meeting with conſiderable refreſhments. X 175 609 [291] However, our eyes, long unuſed to the enchanting proſpect of verdure, were conſtantly directed towards the ſhore, where we diſtinguiſhed a number of people nearly naked, haſtily running down from the hills towards the ſea-ſide.

We

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We could not perceive that they had any arms, which we immediately interpreted into a ſign of a peaceable diſpoſition. In a few minutes we ſaw them launch a canoe, in which two men came off towards us. They were along ſide in a ſhort time, having paddled very briſkly, and immediately called out for a rope, naming it by the ſame word as the Taheitians. We had no ſooner thrown them the rope, than they tied a great cluſter of ripe bananas to it, making ſigns for us to haul it up. The ſudden emotions of joy in every countenance, at the ſight of this fruit, are ſcarcely to be deſcribed; they can only be felt in their full extent by people in the ſame wretched ſituation with ourſelves at that time. At leaſt fifty perſons endeavoured to begin a converſation with the people in the canoe, who being addreſſed by ſo many at once, could not anſwer one of them. Captain Cook ſent for ſome ribbands, to which he tied ſome medals and beads, and lowered them down in return for their preſent. They ſeemed to admire them much, but haſtened aſhore with them immediately. In dropping aſtern, they faſtened a ſmall piece of cloth to a fiſhing-line which we towed after us; it was immediately hauled up, and appeared to be made of the ſame bark as the Taheitian cloth, and coloured yellow. From a few words which they pronounced, we concluded their language to be a dialect of the Taheitian, which we had now found in both extremities of the South Sea. Their whole appearance

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X175
1774 MARCH. ance confirmed us in this opinion, and proved them iſſued from the ſame ſtock. They were of a middle ſtature, but rather thin; their features reſembled thoſe of the Taheitians, but were leſs agreeable: one of them had a beard, which was cut to the length of about half an inch; the other was a youth of about ſeventeen. They had punctures of the ſame nature with thoſe uſed by the natives of the Society and Friendly Iſlands and of New Zeeland; but their whole body, which was perfectly naked, was marked with them. The greateſt ſingularity which we obſerved about them was the ſize of their ears, of which the lap or extremity was ſtretched out ſo as almoſt to reſt on the ſhoulder, and pierced by a very large hole, through which four or five fingers might be thruſt with eaſe. This circumſtance entirely agreed with the deſcription which the ſerjeant-major of Roggewein's ſhip gives of theſe people*. Their canoe was another curioſity, being patched up of many pieces, each of which was not more than four or five inches wide, and two or three feet long. Its length might be about ten or twelve feet, its head and ſtern were raiſed conſiderably, but its middle was very low. It had an outrigger or balancer made of three ſlender poles, and each of the men had a paddle, of which the blade was likewiſe compoſed of ſeveral pieces. This deſcription alſo exactly correſponds with the

[142]
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X175 364
X175 501

* See Mr. Dalrymple's Hiſtorical Collection, vol. II. p. 90, 94, or Hiſtoire de l'Expedition de Trois Vaiſſeaux, tome I. p. 133, a la Haye 1739.

Dutch

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Dutch account of Roggewein's voyage, printed at Dort in 1728*; and ſufficiently proved that the iſland is very deſtitute of wood, though the contrary is aſcertained in the ſerjeant-major's relation of that voyage †.

Though we ſtruck ſoundings oppoſite the place from whence this canoe put off, yet in hopes of finding a better place of anchorage, we ran along the coaſt of the iſland, till we came in ſight of its northern extremity, which we had already ſeen the day before from the other ſide. But being diſappointed in our expectation, we put about with a view to return to the place which we had left. A great number of black pillars ſtood along the ſhore, many of which were elevated on platforms conſiſting of ſeveral ranges of ſtone. We could now diſtinguiſh ſomething reſembling a human head and ſhoulders towards their upper end; but the lower part appeared to be a rude ſtone, without being carved into a reſemblance of the human ſhape. Sometimes we perceived two, ſometimes four, and even five together in a row; but ſome were likewiſe placed by themſelves. We ſaw but few plantations towards the north end, the land being much more bluff or ſteep there, than about the middle of the iſland, and we could eaſily perceive that there was not a tree upon the whole iſland, which exceeded the height of ten feet.

* See Mr. Dalrymple's Collection, vol. II. pag. 111.

† Ibid. vol. II. p. 951 or Hiſtoire, &c. vol. I. p. 138.

In

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1774. MARCH. In the afternoon we hoiſted out a boat, and the maſter went towards the ſhore to take ſoundings in the road, from whence the canoe had come off to us. As ſoon as the natives perceived our boat on the water, they aſſembled along ſhore, near the place to which our people ſeemed to direct their courſe. Among a croud of naked men, we ſaw ſome who ſeemed to be dreſſed in a bright cloth of a yellow, or rather orange colour, from whence we ſuſpected that they were their principal people. We now likewiſe began to diſcern their houſes, which ſeemed to be extremely low and long, higheſt in the middle, and ſloping down towards both extremities. They much reſembled a canoe turned with the keel or bottom upwards. In the middle there ſeemed to be a ſmall entrance or door, which was ſo low, that a man of a common ſize muſt ſtoop to get in. Towards evening we let go our anchor in about forty fathom, gravelly bottom off the S. W. part of the iſland. The maſter returned preſently after, and brought one of the natives in the boat with him. This bold fellow had jumped into the boat without any ceremony or invitation, while it was cloſe to the ſhore, and expreſsly deſired to be brought on board. He was of the middle ſize, about five feet eight inches high, and remarkably hairy on the breaſt and all over the body. His colour was a cheſnut brown, his beard ſtrong, but clipped ſhort, and of a black colour, as was alſo the hair of his head, which was likewiſe cut ſhort.

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ſhort. His ears were very long, almoſt hanging on his ſhoulders, and his legs punctured in compartments after a taſte which we had obſerved no where elſe. He had only a belt round his middle, from whence a kind of net-work deſcended before, too thin to conceal any thing from the ſight. A ſtring was tied about his neck, and a flat bone, ſomething ſhaped like a tongue, and about five inches long, was faſtened to it, and hung down on the breaſt. This, he told us, was a porpoiſe's bone (eevee tobarra), expreſſing it exactly by the ſame words which a Taheitian would have made uſe of. To explain himſelf better, he alſo called it eevee-eeka, which we well underſtood to ſignify the bone of a fiſh *. He was no ſooner ſeated in the boat, than he complained of being cold by ſhivering, and making various geſtures of a very intelligible nature. Mr. Gilbert, the maſter, therefore gave him a jacket, and put a hat on his head, and in that dreſs he appeared upon deck. The captain and paſſengers preſented him with nails, medals, and ſtrings of beads, the laſt of which, he deſired to have tied round his head. At the beginning he ſhewed ſome marks of fear or diffidence, aſking whether we ſhould kill him as an enemy *(matte-toa?)* but upon being aſſured of good treatment and friendſhip on our part, he ſeemed perfectly ſecure and unconcerned, and talked of nothing but dancing

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* Eeya at Taheitee, and eeka at New Zealand and the Friendly Iſles mean a fiſh.

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1774. MARCH. 17 (Evening). It was with ſome difficulty that we underſtood him at firſt; but having enquired for the names by which he diſtinguiſhed the parts of the body, we ſoon found them to be nearly the ſame with thoſe which are uſed in the Society Iſles. If we mentioned a word which he did not comprehend, he repeated it ſeveral times with a look which ſtrongly expreſſed his ignorance of it. As night approached, he ſaid he wanted to go to ſleep, and complained of cold. My father gave him a large Taheitee cloth of the thickeſt ſort, in which he wrapped himſelf, ſaying he found it comfortably warm. He was afterwards conducted into the maſter's cabin, where he lay down on a table, and ſlept very quietly the whole night. Mahine, who had already expreſſed his impatience to go on ſhore, was much pleaſed to find that the inhabitants ſpoke a language ſo ſimilar to his own, and attempted to converſe with our new viſitor ſeveral times, but was interrupted by the queſtions which many other perſons in the ſhip put to him.

Monday 18. We dragged our anchor during night, and drove off the bank, ſo that we were obliged to ſet ſail again, in order to recover our ſituation. Immediately after breakfaſt, captain Cook went aſhore with the native, whoſe name was Maroowahai, together with Mahine, my father, Dr. Sparrman, and myſelf, though my feet and legs were ſtill ſwelled exceſſively, and I was hardly able to walk. We found a ſnug cove for boats, among a number of rocks which ſheltered the

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the landing-place from the mountainous ſwell that tumbled in upon the ſhore. About a hundred, or a hundred and fifty natives were aſſembled on the ſpot where we landed, almoſt all of them naked, ſome having only a belt round the middle, from whence a ſmall bit of cloth, ſix or eight inches long, or a little net, hung down before. A very few of them had a cloak which reached to the knees, made of cloth, reſembling that of Taheitee in the texture, and ſtitched or quilted with thread to make it the more laſting. Moſt of theſe cloaks were painted yellow with the turmeric-root. The people did not make the leaſt unfriendly motion at our landing, but expreſſed a prodigious dread of our fire-arms, of which they ſeemed to know the deadly effects. We ſaw but few arms among them; ſome however had lances or ſpears, made of thin ill-ſhapen ſticks, and pointed with a ſharp triangular piece of a black glaſſy lava (*pumex vitreus*, Linn.) commonly called Iceland agate. One of them had a fighting club, made of a thick piece of wood about three feet long, carved at one extremity; and a few others had ſhort wooden clubs, exactly reſembling ſome of the New Zeeland patoo-patoos, which are made of bone. We obſerved ſome who had European hats and caps, chequered cotton handkerchiefs, and ragged jackets of blue woollen-cloth, which were ſo many indubitable teſtimonies of the viſit which the Spaniards had made to this iſland in 1770. The general appearance of the natives ſeemed to argue a great

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175X [192] [386] 175X 411 [171] 175X

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X175 The general appearance of the natives seemed to argue a
1776 MARCH great sterility of the country. They were inferior in stature
to the natives of the Society and Friendly Isles, and to those of New Zeeland, there being not a single person amongst them, who might be reckoned tall. Their body was likewise lean, and their face thinner than that of any people we had hitherto seen in the South Sea. Their want of clothing, and a great eagerness to obtain our goods without offering any thing in return, seemed altogether to be sufficient marks of poverty. They were all prodigiously
[304] punctured on every part of the body, the face in particular; and their women, who were very small and slender limbed, had likewise punctures on the face, which resembled the
X175 patches sometimes worn by our ladies. The number of
302 women in the croud did not exceed ten or twelve; they were
386 seldom satisfied with their natural clear brown colour, but painted the whole face with a reddish brown ruddle, over which they laid on the bright orange of the turmeric-root; or ornamented themselves with elegant streaks of white shell-lime. The art of painting is therefore not confined to those ladies who have the happiness to imitate French
X175 fashions. The women were all dressed in pieces of cloth,
291 which appeared scanty when compared to the Taheitian dresses. Both sexes had thin, but not savage features,
X175 though the little shelter which their barren country offers
142 against the sun-beams, had contracted their brows sometimes, and drawn the muscles of the face up towards the eye.

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eyes. Their noſes were not very broad, but rather flat, 1774. March.
between the eyes; their lips ſtrong, though not ſo thick as 175X
thoſe of negroes; and their hair black and curling, but 142
always cut ſhort, ſo as not to exceed three inches. Their
eyes were dark brown, and rather ſmall, the white being
leſs clear than in other nations of the South Seas. Their
ears were remarkable for the great length of the lap, which
frequently hung on the ſhoulder, and was pierced with ſo [304]
large a hole, that the extremity could be tucked up through
it. In order to bring it to this ſize, they wore a leaf of a
ſugar-cane, which is very elaſtic, rolled up in it like a ſcroll;
by which means it was always on the ſtretch. The violent 175X
action of the ſun upon their heads has forced them to con- 291
trive various coverings for that part. Many of the men
wore a ring about two inches thick, ſtrongly and curiouſly
plaited of graſs, and fitting cloſe round the head. This
was covered with great quantities of the long black feathers
which decorate the neck of the man of war bird. Others
had huge buſhy caps of brown gulls feathers, which were
almoſt as large as the full-bottomed wigs of European law-
yers; and ſtill others wore a ſimple hoop of wood, round
which a number of the long white feathers of a gannet
hung nodding, and waved in the wind. The women wore
a great wide cap, made of very neat mat-work; it was
pointed forwards, formed a ridge along the top, and two
large lobes behind on each ſide, which we found extremely
cooling:

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1774. MARCH. cooling for the head. Mr. Hodges drew the figure of a woman with this cap on, and of a man with one of the other head dreſſes; both are extremely characteriſtic of the nation, and have been engraved for captain Cook's account of this voyage. The only ornaments which we ſaw among them, were the flat pieces of bone in the ſhape of a tongue, or like a laurel leaf, which both ſexes wore hanging on their breaſt, together with ſome necklaces and ear-jewels made of ſhells.

After ſtaying among the natives for ſome time on the beach, we began to walk into the country. The whole ground was covered with rocks and ſtones of all ſizes, which ſeemed to have been expoſed to a great fire, where they had acquired a black colour and porous appearance. Two or three ſhrivelled ſpecies of graſſes grew up among theſe ſtones, and in a ſlight degree ſoftened the deſolate appearance of the country. About fifteen yards from the landing-place we ſaw a perpendicular wall of ſquare hewn ſtones, about a foot and a half or two feet long, and one foot broad. Its greateſt height was about ſeven or eight feet, but it gradually ſloped on both ſides, and its length might be about twenty yards. A remarkable circumſtance was the junction of theſe ſtones, which were laid after the moſt excellent rules of art, fitting in ſuch a manner as to make a durable piece of architecture. The ſtone itſelf of which they are cut is not of great hardneſs, being a black-

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ish brown cavernous and brittle ſtony lava. The ground roſe from the water's ſide upwards; ſo that another wall, parallel to the firſt, about twelve yards from it and facing the country, was not above two or three feet high. The whole area between the two walls was filled up with ſoil and covered with graſs. About fifty yards farther to the ſouth there was another elevated area, of which the ſurface was paved with ſquare ſtones exactly ſimilar to thoſe which formed the walls. In the midſt of this area, there was a pillar conſiſting of a ſingle ſtone, which repreſented a human figure to the waiſt, about twenty feet high, and upwards of five feet wide. The workmanſhip of this figure was rude, and ſpoke the arts in their infancy. The eyes, noſe, and mouth were ſcarcely marked on a lumpiſh ill-ſhaped head; and the ears, which were exceſſively long, quite in the faſhion of the country, were better executed than any other part, though a European artiſt would have been aſhamed of them. The neck was clumſy and ſhort, and the ſhoulders and arms very ſlightly repreſented. On the top of the head a huge round cylinder of ſtone was placed upright, being above five feet in diameter and in height. This cap, which reſembled the head-dreſs of ſome Egyptian divinity, conſiſted of a different ſtone from the reſt of the pillar, being of a more reddiſh colour; and had a hole on each ſide, as if it had been made round by turning. The cap together with the head, made one half of the whole pillar

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1774. MARCH. pillar which appeared above ground. We did not obſerve X175 that the natives paid any worſhip to theſe pillars, yet they 532 ſeemed to hold them in ſome kind of veneration, as they ſometimes expreſſed a diſlike when we walked over the paved area or pedeſtals, or examined the ſtones of which it conſiſted.

X175 A few of the natives accompanied us farther on into the country, where we had ſeen ſome buſhes at a diſtance, which we hoped would afford us ſomething new. Our road [487] was intolerably rugged, over heaps of volcanic ſtones, which rolled away under our feet, and againſt which we continually hurt ourſelves. The natives, who were accuſtomed to [488] this deſolate ground, ſkipped nimbly from ſtone to ſtone without the leaſt difficulty. In our way we ſaw ſeveral [136] black rats running about, which it ſeems are common to every iſland in the South Sea. Being arrived at the ſhrubX175 bery which we had in view, we found it was nothing but 248 a ſmall plantation of the paper mulberry, of which here, as well as at Taheitee, they make their cloth. Its ſtems were from two to four feet high, and planted in rows, among very large rocks, where the rains had waſhed a little ſoil X175 together. In the neighbourhood of theſe we ſaw ſome 824 buſhes of the *bibiſcus populneus*, Linn. which is common [386] alſo in the Society Iſles, where it is one of the numerous plants made uſe of to dye yellow; and likewiſe a *mimoſa*, which is the only ſhrub that affords the natives ſticks for their

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their clubs and pattoo-pattoos, and wood ſufficient to patch up a canoe. 1774. MARCH.

We found the face of the country more barren and ruinous the farther we advanced. The ſmall number of inhabitants, who met us at the landing-place, ſeemed to have been the bulk of the nation, ſince we met no other people on our walk; and yet for theſe few we did not ſee above ten or twelve huts, though the view commanded a great part of the iſland. One of the ſightlieſt of theſe was ſituated on a little hillock, about half a mile from the ſea, which we aſcended. Its conſtruction was ſuch as evinced the poverty and wretched condition of its owners. The foundation conſiſted of ſtones about a foot long, laid level with the ſurface in two curve lines, converging at the extremities. Theſe lines were about ſix feet aſunder in the middle, but not above one foot at the ends. In every ſtone of this foundation we obſerved one or two holes, in each of which a ſtake was inſerted. The middlemoſt ſtakes were ſix feet high, but the others gradually diminiſhed to two feet. On the top the ſtakes all converged, and were tied by ſtrings to tranſverſe ſticks, by which they were kept together. A kind of thatch, made of ſmall ſticks, and covered with a neat mat-work of ſugar-cane leaves, leaned on each row of ſtakes, forming a very ſharp ridge or angle at the top, and reſting firmly on the ground at the bottom. A hole was left on one ſide, about eighteen inches or two

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1774. MARCH. feet high, over which the people had built a round projecting funnel to keep off the wet. We crept on all fours into this opening, and found the inside of the hut perfectly naked and empty, there being not so much as a wisp of straw to lie down upon. We could not stand upright in any part except just in the middle, and the whole place appeared dark and dismal. The natives told us they passed the night in these huts, and we easily conceived their situation to be uncomfortable, especially as we saw so very few of them, that they must be crammed full, unless the generality of the people lie in the open air, and leave these wretched dwellings to their chiefs, or make use of them only in bad weather.

Besides these huts, we observed some heaps of stones piled up into little hillocks, which had one steep perpendicular side, where a hole went under ground. The space within could be but very small, and yet it is probable that these cavities likewise served to give shelter to the people during night. They may, however, communicate with natural caverns, which are very common in the lava currents of volcanic countries. Such caverns are very frequent in Iceland, famous for having been the dwelling-places of the ancient inhabitants. Mr. Ferber, the first mineralogical historian of Vesuvius, has noticed such a subterraneous hole in one of the modern lavas of that mountain. We should have

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have been glad to have aſcertained this circumſtance, but the natives always denied us admittance into theſe places. 1774. MARCH.

A plantation of ſugar-canes and one of bananas adjoined to the houſe we had viſited, and both were in excellent order, conſidering the ſtony quality of the ground. The bananas were all growing in holes one foot deep, which we ſuppoſed to be contrived for collecting the rain, and preſerving it for a longer time about the plant. The ſugar-canes were about nine or ten feet high, even in this parched country, and contained a very ſweet juice, which the inhabitants preſented to us very frequently, and particularly whenever we aſked for ſomething to drink. We concluded from thence that they had no water on the iſland; but coming back to the landing-place we met captain Cook, whom the natives had conducted to a well very cloſe to the ſea, which was cut deep into the rock, but full of impurities. When our people had cleared it, they found the water in it rather brackiſh, but the natives drank of it with much ſeeming ſatisfaction.

Captain Cook had not been very fortunate in trading with the people. They ſeemed indeed to be ſo deſtitute as to have no proviſions to ſpare. A few matted baſkets full of ſweet potatoes, ſome ſugar-canes, bunches of bananas, and two or three ſmall fowls ready dreſſed, were the whole purchaſe which he had made for a few iron tools, and ſome Taheitee cloth. He had preſented the people with

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beads, but they always threw them away with contempt, as far as ever they could. Whatever elſe they ſaw about us, they were deſirous of poſſeſſing, though they had nothing to give in return. Their number was now decreaſed nearly to one half, many of them having probably gone home to their dinners; however, the number of women was always remarkably ſmall in proportion to the men, there being not above twelve or fifteen at our firſt landing, and about ſix or ſeven when we embarked again. They were neither reſerved nor chaſte, and for the trifling conſideration of a ſmall piece of cloth, ſome of our ſailors obtained the gratification of their deſires. Their features were mild enough, and the large pointed cap gave them the air of profeſſed wantons.

We returned on board the ſhip before noon, and found it at anchor, though we had left it under ſail. The freſh fruits and roots which we brought on board, were immediately diſtributed as far as they would go, and proved a moſt ſeaſonable refreſhment to our ſick. We taſted the fowls, which ſeemed to have been dreſſed under-ground, by means of hot ſtones being wrapped up in green leaves, in the manner practiſed amongſt all the nations of the South Sea, whom we had hitherto viſited. The potatoes were of a gold-yellow colour, and as ſweet as carrots, therefore not equally palatable to us all; however they were extremely nouriſhing, and very antiſcorbutic. The juices of this,

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this, and all the other vegetables on this iſland, ſeemed to have been concentrated by the dryneſs of the ſoil. Their bananas were reckoned very delicious in their kind, by thoſe who were fond of this fruit, and their ſugar-canes were ſweeter than any we had taſted at Taheitee. 1774. March. 175 X 262

In the afternoon we returned on ſhore again, and an officer went with another boat to fill water at the well. We found but few natives near the landing-place, and among them was one, who appeared to have ſome little authority, and readily accompanied the captain wherever he went. He was not ſo timorous as the reſt of his countrymen, but walked boldly along with us, whilſt the others were alarmed at the leaſt motion which appeared unuſual to them. This diſpoſition, however, did not prevent them from picking our pockets, or ſtealing any thing which ſuited them. We had not been half an hour on ſhore, when one of them came behind Mahine, and very nimbly ſnatching a black cap from his head, ran off with the greateſt velocity over the heaps of rugged ſtones, where it was impoſſible to follow him. Mahine was ſo ſurpriſed, that it was ſome time before he could find words to complain to the captain; and when he did it, the thief was already at a great diſtance. About the ſame time, as Mr. Hodges was ſitting on a little eminence, and ſketching a view of the country, one of the natives ran off with his hat in the ſame manner. Mr. Wales was ſtanding by him with 175 X 609

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1774. MARCH. with a muſket in his hand, but very juſtly reflected, that ſo ſlight a crime did not deſerve the puniſhment of a leaden bullet.

In our walk along the ſea-ſhore, we diſcovered a few ſtalks of the ſame ſpecies of celery which is plentiful on the beaches of New Zeeland, and we alſo found two other little plants common to that country. Whether theſe plants originally exiſted on the iſland, or ſprung up from ſeeds, which the current of the ſea, or birds by their plumage might tranſport from the oppoſite ſide of the ocean, I cannot venture to determine. We likewiſe met with a plantation of yams (*dioſcorea alata*, Linn.) which in ſo poor a *flora* as that of Eaſter Iſland was a great addition. The great correſpondence in the features, cuſtoms, and languages of theſe people, to thoſe of other natives of the South Sea iſlands, gave us ſome room to hope for ſuch domeſtic animals among them, as we had obſerved at Taheitee or New Zeeland. But notwithſtanding the moſt diligent ſearch, we never met with any other than common fowls, which were of a very ſmall breed, and had a dull plumage. It is true we obſerved alſo two or three noddies, which were ſo tame as to ſettle on the ſhoulders of the natives, but from theſe individuals we could not conclude, that they kept a regular breed of them.

About ſun-ſet we left the watering-place, and walked to the cove where our boat lay at a grapnel. In our way we paſſed

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passed over the area on which the single pillar before-mentioned was placed. A few natives who still accompanied us, made signs that we should descend, and walk in the grass at the foot of the pedestal; but seeing that we did not care to understand their gestures, they made no other attempt to oppose our progress. We put some questions to the most intelligent persons among them, concerning the nature of these stones, and from what we could understand, we concluded that they were monuments erected to the memory of some of their areekees, or kings. This led us to believe that the pedestal was perhaps to be considered as a burying-place, and on looking carefully round it, we found a number of human bones, which confirmed our conjecture. The length of these bones was exactly such as might be expected in persons of a middle stature, and a thigh-bone which we measured, exactly corresponded with that of a person about five feet nine inches high. To the westward of the cove, there was a range of three pillars, standing on a very large elevated area or pedestal. This range the natives distinguished by the name of *banga-roa*, and the single pillar they called *oheena*. About ten or twelve people were seated at a little distance from the last, round a small fire, over which they had roasted a few potatoes. These served for their supper, and they offered us some of them as we passed by. We were much surprised with this instance of hospitality in so poor a country, especially when we

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we compared it to the cuſtoms of civilized nations, who have almoſt entirely laid aſide all tender feelings for the wants of their fellow-creatures. At the ſame time we were very glad to be convinced, that the conjectures of the Dutch concerning the fires which they ſaw on this iſland, were ill-founded, as we did not ſee the leaſt reaſon to ſuppoſe, that they were lighted for religious purpoſes. We now embarked with a ſmall quantity of potatoes, and with about ſix or ſeven common plants which we had gathered, and returned on board. Thoſe only who were ill of the ſcurvy, reaped ſome benefit from their viſit to the ſhore. I who went out in the morning with my legs exceſſively ſwelled, and ſo tender that I could hardly ſtand upon them, returned on board much better; the ſwelling was ſomething reduced, and my pains at leaſt were gone. I could not attribute this ſudden change to any thing elſe, than the exerciſe I had taken on ſhore, and perhaps to thoſe ſalutary antiſcorbutic effluvia of the land, which it is ſaid, are alone ſufficient to recover thoſe, who have contracted the ſcurvy on a long cruize at ſea.

Tueſday 15. Early the next morning, captain Cook appointed a party of marines and ſailors, under the command of lieutenants Pickerſgill and Edgecumbe, to reconnoitre the interior parts of the country, in order to be convinced if poſſible, whether any other part was better cultivated, or more cloſely inhabited than that which we had hitherto ſeen. Mr. Wales, Mr.

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Mr. Hodges, Dr. Sparrman, and my father aſſociated with them, ſo that the whole party conſiſted of twenty-ſeven men. 1774. March. 175X

After breakfaſt I accompanied captain Cook and ſeveral officers aſhore, where we found about two hundred inhabitants aſſembled, amongſt whom were fourteen or fifteen women, and very few children. It was impoſſible for us to gueſs at the cauſe of this diſproportion in the number of the different ſexes; but as all the women we ſaw were very liberal of their favours, I conjectured at that time, that the married and the modeſt, who might be ſuppoſed to form the greater part, did not care to come near us, or were forced by the men to ſtay at their dwellings in the remote parts of the iſland. Thoſe few who appeared were the moſt laſcivious of their ſex, that perhaps have ever been noticed in any country, and ſhame ſeemed to be entirely unknown to them; our ſailors likewiſe diſclaimed all acquaintance with modeſty, for nothing but the ſhadow of the gigantic monument ſcreened them from the ſun. 175X 161 175X 834

Mr. Patton, lieutenant Clerke, and myſelf left the ſea-ſide, where the concourſe was greateſt, and took a walk into the country. The heat of the ſun was very violent, the beams being reverberated from the broken ground, and there was not a ſingle tree to give us ſhelter. My companions had taken their fowling-pieces in hopes of meeting with ſome birds; but they were greatly diſappointed, there 175X

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1774. MARCH. being probably no other land-birds on the iſland than the common fowl, which were tame and extremely ſcarce. We followed one of the paths which the natives had made, till we came to a cultivated ſpot, conſiſting of ſeveral fields planted with ſweet potatoes, yams, and eddoes, together with a ſpecies of night-ſhade, which is made uſe of at Taheitee and the neighbouring iſlands as a vulnerary remedy, (*ſolanum nigrum?*) and may, for ought I know, be cultivated here for the ſame purpoſe. The graſs, which commonly ſprings up among the ſtones on the uncultivated ſoil, was here carefully plucked up, and ſpread over the whole plantation as a manure, or perhaps to preſerve it in ſome meaſure from the parching beams of the ſun. It ſhould ſeem from theſe circumſtances that the natives are not altogether ignorant of rural œconomy, and till the ground at a great expence of time and labour. At a little diſtance from theſe fields we met with two huts, conſtructed exactly like that which I have mentioned page 569, but much ſmaller. The entrance was ſtopped up with a great quantity of ſmall bruſhwood, and we at firſt imagined that we heard the voices of women within, but after liſtening for ſome time we heard nothing farther to confirm us in this belief. We rambled from thence to the top of a hillock covered with ſhrubberies, which we found to conſiſt of nothing but a ſpecies of *mimoſa*, that ſcarcely attained the height of eight feet, and afforded us very little ſhelter from the

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the ſun. Here we reſted a while, and then deſcended by a different route into another ſet of fields, which were treated in the ſame manner as the reſt. None of them had any ſort of encloſures, though the hiſtorians of Roggewein's voyage, who ſeem to have conſulted fancy more than truth, make mention of them. The encreaſing heat of the day had entirely exhauſted us, when we had ſtill a conſiderable way to make down to the ſea-ſide. Fortunately we paſſed by a native who was at work, gathering potatoes in one of the fields. We complained of great thirſt to him, upon which, though he was on old man, he immediately ran to a large plantation of ſugar-canes, and brought us a great load of the beſt and juicieſt on his back. We made him ſome preſents in return for them, cut them into walking-ſticks, and, as we went along, gradually peeled and ſucked them, finding their juice extremely refreſhing. 1774. MARCH.

At our return to the landing-place we found captain Cook ſtill occupied in trading with the inhabitants, who brought him ſome fowls ready dreſſed, and ſome matted baſkets full of ſweet potatoes, but ſometimes deceived him by filling the baſket with ſtones, and only laying a few potatoes at the top. The moſt valuable article of trade on our part were empty coco-nut ſhells, which we had received at the Society and Friendly Iſlands; but they were not current, unleſs the hole in them was very ſmall, or unleſs they had a cover. The Taheitian and European cloths

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1774. MARCH. were valued in the next degree according to the ſize of the pieces; and iron-ware bore an inferior price. The greateſt part of the natives who traded with us inſtantly ran off with the cloth, nut-ſhell, or the nail which had been given in exchange for their potatoes, as if they were apprehenſive that we might repent of our bargain, even though they dealt honeſtly with us. Some among them were bold enough to run off with what they had received, as the price of their proviſions, before they had delivered up the goods for which we had bargained. From ſuch circumſtances the deplorable condition of the natives became more and more conſpicuous. The ſcarcity of cloth among them was extremely great, moſt of the people being forced to go naked; but this did not prevent their ſelling what little cloth they had in exchange for that of Taheitee. The deſire of poſſeſſing this cloth prompted them to expoſe to ſale ſeveral articles which perhaps they would not have parted with ſo eaſily under other circumſtances. Among theſe were their different caps or head-dreſſes, their necklaces, ornaments for the ear, and ſeveral human figures, made of narrow pieces of wood about eighteen inches or two feet long, and wrought in a much neater and more proportionate manner than we could have expected, after ſeeing the rude ſculpture of the ſtatues. They were made to repreſent perſons of both ſexes; the features were not very pleaſing, and the whole figure was much too long to be natural; however, there was ſomething characteriſtic

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racteriſtic in them, which ſhewed a taſte for the arts. The wood of which they were made was finely poliſhed, cloſe-grained, and of a dark-brown, like that of the caſuarina. But as we had not yet ſeen this tree growing here, we eagerly expected the return of our party, hoping they would make ſome diſcoveries to explain this circumſtance. Mahine was moſt pleaſed with theſe carved human figures, the workman of which much excelled thoſe of the *e Tees* in his country, and he purchaſed ſeveral of them, aſſuring us they would be greatly valued at Taheitee. As he took great pains to collect theſe curioſities, he once met with a figure of a woman's hand, carved of a yellowiſh wood, nearly of the natural ſize. Upon examination, its fingers were all bent upwards, as they are in the action of dancing at Taheitee, and its nails were repreſented very long, extending at leaſt three fourths of an inch beyond the fingers' end. The wood of which it was made was the rare perfume-wood of Taheitee, with the chips of which they communicate fragrance to their oils. We had neither ſeen this wood growing, nor obſerved the cuſtom of wearing long nails at this iſland, and therefore were at a loſs to conceive how this piece of well-executed carving could be met with there; we hoped, however, to unravel this circumſtance alſo at the return of our party. Mahine afterwards preſented this piece to my father, who has in his turn made a preſent of it to the Britiſh Muſeum. Mahine was likewiſe very eager

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Mahine was likewise very eager

1774. MARCH. to collect as many feathered caps as he could meet with, especially those which had the feathers of a man of war bird, that bird being very scarce about Taheitee, and much valued on account of its glossy black colour.

Whilst captain Cook continued in the cove, another trade for potatoes was carried on at the watering-place. Here the desire of possessing our goods, made some of the natives guilty of a crime against their own countryman. A field of sweet potatoes was situated close to the well, and a considerable number of people of different ages and sizes, busied themselves in digging them up, and bringing them for sale to our people. They had carried on this occupation for some hours, when another native arrived, who was in a vehement passion with them, and drove them all away, remaining alone to dig the roots up himself. He was the owner of the field, whom the rest had robbed of the fruits of his labour, finding an easy method to dispose of their stolen goods. It is not to be doubted that these offences against the laws of civil society, are sometimes committed even at the Society Isles, because the inhabitants have often told us, that they inflicted a capital punishment upon such offenders; but we never saw any instances of it there. On this occasion at Easter Island, we did not observe that they annexed any penalty to the crime, though we saw it committed. Perhaps this is owing to the different degree of civilization of those two cogeneric tribes.

We

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We went on board at noon, where we dined on ſome fowls and potatoes, which we found delicious after the fatigues of the morning. We obſerved a few natives on board, who had ventured to ſwim off, though the ſhip lay about three quarters of a mile from the ſhore. They expreſſed the moſt unbounded admiration at every thing they ſaw, and every one of them meaſured the whole length of the veſſel from head to ſtern, with his extended arms; ſuch a great quantity of timber of ſo ſtupendous a ſize, being altogether incomprehenſible to people whoſe canoes were patched of many ſmall bits of wood. Among them was one woman, who had arrived on board in the ſame manner, and carried on a particular traffic of her own. She viſited ſeveral of the inferior officers, and then addreſſed herſelf to the ſailors, emulating the famous exploits of Meſſalina *. A few Engliſh rags, and ſome pieces of Taheitee cloth, were the ſpoils which ſhe carried away with her, being fetched off by a man in the patched canoe, which was perhaps the only one in the iſland. Another of her country-women had viſited our ſhip the day before, and been equally unbounded in her revels. It remained a doubt with us, whether we ſhould moſt admire their ſucceſs among a ſickly crew, exhauſted by the long continuance of a noxious diet, or their own ſpirit and inſatiate temper.

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* See Plin. Hiſt. Nat. lib. x. c. 63. Tacit. Annal. lib. xi. Juvenal. Sat. vi. 129.
——laſſata virîs, nec ſatiata recedit.

In

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1774. MARCH. In the afternoon we returned to the ſhore again, and I walked on the hills to the ſouthward, which roſe with a very eaſy ſlope. Here I met with a large plantation of bananas, beyond which I found ſome remains of a ſtone wall, which was perhaps once the baſe of a ſtatue. From thence I croſſed ſome fields, where I ſaw a family of the natives at work, taking potatoes out of the ground. I walked up to their hut, which was one of the ſmalleſt I had yet ſeen, and as they came about me, I ſat down among them. Their whole number amounted to ſix or ſeven perſons, one of whom was a woman, and two were young boys. They preſented me with ſome ſugar-canes, and in return, I made them a preſent of a ſmall piece of Tahcitee cloth, which they immediately wrapped about the head. They did not expreſs that great curioſity which we had obſerved among the people of the Society Iſles, but ſoon returned to their former occupation, in which all were employed without exception. Some of them had head-dreſſes made of feathers, which they readily offered to exchange for pieces of cloth no bigger than a handkerchief. About the hut I perceived a few fowls, the only ones which I had ſeen alive on the iſland. Their behaviour towards me was wholly inoffenſive, agreeably to the general character of the nations in the South Sea. From the expreſſions of the hiſtorians of Roggewein's voyage, it ſhould ſeem, that the Dutch very wantonly fired upon the natives, who gave no

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no provocation, and killed a conſiderable number of them, intimidating the reſt to a great degree. It is probable, that the terror with which they looked upon the deſtructive arms of Europeans at that time, and during the late viſit of the Spaniards, was revived among them at our appearance, and had an influence on their general timid behaviour towards us; but it is not to be doubted, at the ſame time, that there is a mildneſs, fellow-feeling, and good-nature in their diſpoſition, which naturally prompts them to treat their viſitors kindly, and even hoſpitably, as far as their wretched country will permit. 1774. MARCH. 175 X 609

I returned the ſame way by which I came, and ſoon after went on board the ſhip with captain Cook. About nine o'clock a muſket was fired on ſhore, as a ſignal for a boat, and the pinnace being ſent off, returned ſoon after with our party, who had been to examine the iſland. My father being more fatigued than any body elſe, on account of his long rheumatic complaint, was obliged to go to bed immediately; but the other gentlemen ſupped with us, on a few fowls which we had purchaſed on ſhore, and gave us ſome account of their travels. As it will be moſt agreeable to ſee it in connection, I ſhall here inſert that which I have extracted from my father's journal. 175 X

"Immediately after landing, we walked directly inland or acroſs the country, under the higheſt hill which lies towards the ſouth, till we came to the other ſide of the iſland.

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1774. MARCH. About an hundred natives, and among them four or five women, accompanied us on our march, and ſold us a quantity of potatoes and a few fowls, which we added to our ſtock of proviſions. We found the whole country ſtrewed with ſtones of various ſizes, of a cavernous or ſpongy texture, and of a black, brown, or reddiſh colour, which had indubitable marks of having been in a volcanic fire. The paths through this rugged ground are in ſome meaſure cleared of the ſtones, but ſo very narrow, that we were obliged to turn our toes inwards, at which the natives are perfectly expert, and to ſet one foot exactly before the other. This mode of walking was exceſſively fatiguing to us who were not uſed to it, ſo that we continually hurt our feet or ſtumbled. On both ſides the ground was covered with a thin perennial Jamaica-graſs, *(paſpalum,)* which grew in bunches or tufts, and was ſo ſlippery that we could not walk on it. We reached the eaſt ſide of the iſland, near a range of ſeven pillars or ſtatues, of which only four remained ſtanding, and one of them had loſt its cap. They ſtood on a common pedeſtal, like thoſe which we had ſeen on the other ſide, and its ſtones were ſquare and fitted exactly in the ſame manner. Though the ſtone of which the ſtatue itſelf is formed ſeems to be ſoft enough, being nothing but the red *tufa* which covers the whole iſland, yet it was incomprehenſible to me how ſuch great maſſes could be formed by a ſet of people among whom

we

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we ſaw no tools; or raiſed and erected by them without machinery. The general appellation of this range was *Hanga* Tzaòw; hanga being the word which they preſix to every range. The names of the ſtatues were *Ko**-*Tomoaï*, *Ko-Tomoèeree*, *Ko-Hòo oo*, *Morobèena*, *Oomarèeva*, *Weendloo*, *Weenapè*. 1774. MARCH.

"From hence we continued our march to the northward along the ſea, having a precipice on our right. The ground was the ſame ferrugineous *tufa* for a conſiderable way, covered with ſmall fragments; but after ſome time we came to a ſpot which was a ſingle coherent rock or lump of black melted lava, which appeared to contain ſome iron. There was no ſoil, graſs, or plant whatſoever upon it. Beyond it we paſſed through a number of plantations of bananas, potatoes, and yams, and one of eddoes. The graſs between the ſtones was plucked up and ſpread on the land, to ſcreen it from the ſun, to keep the moiſture of the rain in it, and at laſt to manure it.

"The natives continued to offer ſome potatoes for ſale ready dreſſed, and, at a hut where we halted, they ſold us ſome fiſh. Some of them carried arms, which were no other than the thin ſticks we had ſeen before, and which were headed with a black vitreous lava, carefully wrapped in a ſmall piece of cloth. Only one of them had a battle-axe, reſembling that of the New Zeelanders, though much ſhorter. It had a head carved on each ſide, and a ſmall round portion of the black glass above mentioned inſtead of eyes.

* *Ko* is the article, as at New Zeeland and in the Friendly Iſles.

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1774. MARCH. round portion of the black glaſs above-mentioned inſtead of eyes. They had likewiſe ſome ſmall crooked human figures made of wood, of which we could not learn the uſe or ſignification; we did not, however, think that our ignorance on this ſubject intitled us to call them idols, which is too commonly the judgment paſſed upon the works of art of unknown nations.

"After leaving this hut we ſtill advanced to the northward, without ſeeing any new objects. A man and a woman met us from ſome neighbouring houſes, each with a large matted bag, of very neat workmanſhip, filled with hot potatoes, and placed themſelves by the ſide of the path where we were to paſs. As we came on, the man preſented each of us with ſome of the roots, and having diſtributed a portion to the whole party, he ran with amazing ſwiftneſs to the head of our file to ſhare out the reſt, till he had given away the whole. He received a large piece of cloth from me, which was the only requital for an inſtance of hoſpitality, of which I never ſaw the like even at Taheitee. Soon after the natives told us their *aree*, or *bareekee*, or king was coming towards us. Several men came on before him, and diſtributed ſugar-canes to us all in ſign of friendſhip, at the ſame time pronouncing the word *beco**, which ſignifies friend. We now ſaw the king ſtanding on a hill, and walked up to him, Mr. Pickerſgill and myſelf making him

* *Hoa* at the Society Iſles; *Woa* at the Friendly Iſles.

ſome

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ſome preſents. We aſked for his name, which he told us was Ko Tohéetai; adding that he was *aree* or king. We were deſirous of knowing whether he was only the chief of a diſtrict, or of the whole iſland; upon which he ſpread out his arms, as it were to include the whole iſland, and ſaid *Waihu*. To ſhew that we underſtood him, we laid our hands on his breaſt, and, calling him by name, added his title, king of Waihu, at which he expreſſed very great ſatisfaction, and converſed a great deal with his people on that ſubject. He was a middle-aged man, rather tall; his face and whole body ſtrongly punctured. He wore a piece of cloth made of the mulberry bark, quilted with threads of graſs, and ſtained yellow with turmerick; and on his head he had a cap of long ſhining black feathers, which might be called a diadem. We did not perceive any great degree of homage or attention paid to him by the people; and indeed in ſo poor a country there ſeems to be nothing which he could have reſerved for himſelf, without a manifeſt incroachment on the natural rights of mankind, which might have produced dangerous effects. When we wanted to continue our march he ſeemed to diſlike it, and deſired us to return, offering to accompany us; but ſeeing our officer determined to proceed at all events he deſiſted, and went with us. 1774. MARCH.

"We marched to an elevated ſpot, and ſtopped a little while to take ſome refreſhments, and to give Mr. Hodges time to draw ſome of the monuments, near one of which we

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1774. MARCH. we found an entire ſkeleton of a man. A good view of X175 ſome of theſe monuments is inſerted in captain Cook's account of this voyage. Our people ſat down on the ground, and laid their bundles of proviſion before them, whilſt the officers, and other gentlemen with myſelf, converſed with the natives. One of our ſailors, who carried my plant-bag, in which were a few nails, &c. being leſs careful of his bundle than the reſt, a native ſnatched it up and ran off with it. None of us ſaw it, except lieutenant Edgecumb, who immediately fired his muſket, loaded with ſmall ſhot, at the thief, and thus gave the alarm to us all. The native being wounded threw down the bag, which our people recovered, but he fell ſoon after; his countrymen took him up, and fled to a little diſtance, till we beckoned to them to return, which almoſt all of them did. Though this was the only inſtance of firing at a native during our ſtay at Eaſter Iſland, yet it is to be lamented that Europeans too often aſſume the power of inflicting puniſhments on people who are utterly unacquainted with their laws.

[312] "From this ſpot we continued our march a good way inland, and were conducted to a deep well, which appeared to have been formed by art, and contained good freſh water, though ſomewhat troubled. We all drank heartily of it, X175 and then went on, paſſing by ſeveral large ſtatues, which 532 had been overturned, till we came in ſight of the two hummocks, near which we had perceived the greateſt number of pillars

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pillars or ſtatues, from the ſhip, on the 12th. We mounted on an eminence in the neighbourhood, from whence we beheld the ſea on both ſides of the iſland, acroſs a plain which we had likewiſe diſcovered from the ſhip at that time. We viewed the whole eaſtern coaſt, and its numerous pillars, and were convinced that there was no bay or harbour on that ſide of the iſland. With this information we returned back to a large ſtatue, which the natives called *Mangototo*, and in the ſhade of which we dined. In its neighbourhood we met with another huge ſtatue, which lay overturned; it was twenty-ſeven feet long, and nine feet in diameter, exceeding in magnitude every other pillar which we had ſeen on the iſland. 1774. MARCH. 175 X 532

"In returning, we ſtopped once more at the well, and quenched our thirſt, which the raging heat of the ſun, reverberated from barren rocks, had excited. From thence we directed our march ſomething nearer the ridge of hills which run along the middle of the iſland, but found the path more rugged and fatiguing than ever, the country being ſtrewed with volcanic cinders, and deſolate all round us, though we found many remaining proofs of its having been formerly cultivated. I now felt how much I had been weakened by the long continuance of the rheumatiſm, which had crippled all my limbs, and was hardly able to keep up with the reſt, though I had formerly, upon ſimilar occaſions, been indefatigable. The natives ſeeing us ſtrike 175 X

into

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1774. March. X175 into a difficult path had all left us, except one man and a little boy. Finding that our officers with their party, went too much out of their way, by miſtaking the direction of our ſhip, I left them; and with Dr. Sparrman, a ſailor, and the two natives, purſued the neareſt path, which the latter had plainly pointed out. The man ſeeing me very faint, offered me his hand, and walking on the looſe ſtones by the ſide of the path, with amazing dexterity ſupported me for a conſiderable way; the little boy going before, and picking up the ſtones which obſtructed the path. By reſting ſeveral times, we were at laſt enabled to reach the ſummit of the hill, from whence we ſaw the ſea to the weſt, and the ſhip at anchor. The hill was covered with a ſhrubbery of the *mimoſa*, which grew here to the height of eight or nine feet, and ſome of whoſe ſtems near the root, were about the thickneſs of a man's thigh. We found another well hereabouts, of which the water was infected with a putrid taſte, and the ſmell of *hepar ſulphuris*, but of which we drank, notwithſtanding its nauſeouſneſs. The ſun ſet very ſoon after we had left this well; ſo that we continued our walk downwards, for more than two hours entirely in the dark, during which my Indian's aſſiſtance was particularly valuable to me. I waited for Mr. Pickerſgill and the reſt of the party, having gained near three miles upon them, and arrived ſafely at the ſea-ſide with them, after walking at the loweſt computation, at leaſt five and twenty miles on the moſt deteſtable

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deteſtable roads, where not a ſingle tree appeared to give us ſhelter from the ſcorching ſun. I rewarded my friendly conductors with all the Taheitee cloth, and iron ware, which I had about me, and arrived ſafely on board with the party." 1774. MARCH. 175X

From this narrative it is evident, that the moſt diligent enquiries on our part, have not been ſufficient to throw a clear light on the ſurpriſing objects which ſtruck our eyes in this iſland. We may however, attempt to account for thoſe gigantic monuments, of which great numbers exiſt in every part; for as they are ſo diſproportionate to the preſent ſtrength of the nation, it is moſt reaſonable to look upon them as the remains of better times. The niceſt calculations which we could make, never brought the number of inhabitants in this iſland beyond ſeven hundred *, who, deſtitute of tools, of ſhelter, and clothing, are obliged to ſpend all their time in providing food to ſupport their precarious exiſtence. It is obvious that they are too much occupied with their wants, to think of forming ſtatues, which would coſt them ages to finiſh, and require their united ſtrength to erect. Accordingly, we did not ſee a ſingle inſtrument among them on all our excurſions, which could have been of the leaſt uſe in maſonry or ſculpture. 174 532 [61] [42]

* The Spaniards in the S. Lorenzo, and frigate Roſalia, make the population of Eaſter Iſland amount to between two and three thouſand; but it may be doubted whether they examined the interior country, as well as our people. See Mr. Dalrymple's Letter to Dr. Hawkeſworth.

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1774. MARCH. could have been of the leaſt uſe in maſonry or ſculpture. 174 We neither met with any quarries, where they had recently 532 dug the materials, nor with unfiniſhed ſtatues which we might have conſidered as the work of the preſent race. It is therefore probable, that theſe people were formerly more numerous, more opulent and happy, when they could ſpare ſufficient time to flatter the vanity of their princes, by perpetuating their name by laſting monuments. The remains of plantations found on the ſummits of the hills, give ſtrength and ſupport to this conjecture. It is not in our power to determine by what various accidents a nation ſo flouriſhing, could be reduced in number, and degraded to its preſent indigence. But we are well convinced that many cauſes may produce this effect, and that the devaſtation which a volcano might make, is alone ſufficient to heap a load of miſeries on a people confined to ſo ſmall a ſpace. In fact, this iſland, which may perhaps, in remote ages, have been produced by a volcano, ſince all its minerals are merely volcanic, has at leaſt in all likelihood been deſtroyed by its fire. All kinds of trees and plants, all domeſtic animals, nay a great part of the nation itſelf may have periſhed in the dreadful convulſion of nature: hunger and miſery muſt have been but too powerful enemies to thoſe who eſcaped the fire. We cannot well account for thoſe little carved images which we ſaw among the natives, and the repreſentation of a dancing woman's hand,

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hand, which, as I have mentioned above, are made of wood, at preſent not to be met with upon the iſland. The only idea which offers itſelf, is that they were made long ago, and have been ſaved by accident or predilection, at the general cataſtrophe which ſeems to have happened. All the women whom we ſaw in different parts of the iſland, did not amount to thirty, though our people croſſed it almoſt from one end to the other, without ſeeing the leaſt probability that the women had retired to any ſecluded part. If there are really no more than thirty or forty women, among ſix or ſeven hundred men, the whole nation is in a fair way of becoming entirely extinct in a ſhort ſpace of time, unleſs all our phyſical principles on the plurality of huſbands are erroneous. The greater part of the women whom we ſaw gave us no reaſon to ſuppoſe that they were accuſtomed to a ſingle partner; on the contrary, they ſeemed habitually to have arrived at the ſpirit of Meſſalina, or of Cleopatra. But this diſproportion is ſuch a ſingular phænomenon in human nature, that we cannot without difficulty give credit to it, and would willingly lay hold of any argument which, though incumbered with difficulties, might reſtore the proportion between the ſexes. It is true our party did not ſee any valley or ſecluded glen, to which the women might have confined themſelves during our ſtay; but I muſt remind the

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1774. MARCH. reader of thoſe caverns mentioned before, to which the natives always refuſed to admit us. The caverns of Iceland are ſpacious enough to contain ſeveral thouſand inhabitants; and nothing is more probable than that, in a ſimilar volcanic country, ſuch caverns may afford room for a few hundreds. What reaſons the Eaſter Iſlanders may have to be more jealous of their women than the Taheitians, we know not; but we are acquainted with the outrageous and wanton behaviour of the ſailor, wherever he has ſo great a ſuperiority over the Indian, as the Dutch and Spaniards muſt have had over the people of Eaſter Iſland. The principal objection againſt this ſuppoſition is, however, the ſmall number of children which we ſaw, there being no reaſon to ſeclude them from our eyes, whatever might be thought neceſſary with regard to the women. In ſhort, this matter muſt remain unaſcertained, and if, in fact, the number of women is inconſiderable, it muſt have been diminiſhed by ſome extraordinary accident, which none but the natives could have explained; but, in all our doubts, our ignorance of their language prevented us from acquiring any information.

The next morning we ſent a boat aſhore to take in ſome water, and the weather continuing calm, another went off to trade with the natives in order to encreaſe our little ſtock of potatoes. One of the natives likewiſe plied between the

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ſhip and the ſhore, bringing off potatoes and bananas in the patched canoe. In the mean while a ſmart ſhower falling on board the ſhip, enabled our people to collect a quantity of freſh water in the awnings and ſails of the ſhip, which were ſpread to catch it. Another boat went off to the ſhore in the afternoon, but towards evening a faint breeze ſpringing up, the ſhip fired a gun, in conſequence of which the boat came on board, and we ſailed N. W. by W. from Eaſter Iſland. 1774. MARCH. 175

We had been greatly diſappointed in the expectation which we had formed of this iſland, as a place of refreſhment. The only article of any importance was their ſweet potatoes; but after we had regularly ſhared out all we had purchaſed, the common people had only a few ſcanty meals of them. As to the bananas, yams, and ſugar-canes which we had bought, they were in ſuch inconſiderable quantities, that they ſcarce deſerve to be mentioned. All the fowls which we had obtained, and which, in general, were of a very ſmall breed, did not amount to fifty; and even the quantity of water which we had filled was inconſiderable and ill taſted. However, this ſmall ſupply was ſo ſeaſonable, that it preſerved us from the too violent attacks of the ſcurvy and bilious diſorders, till we could reach a better place of refreſhment. Indeed, when I conſider the wretched ſituation of the inhabitants, I am ſurpriſed that they parted

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1774. MARCH. parted with a quantity of provisions to us, of which the cultivation must have cost them great pains and labour. The barren refractory soil of their island, the scarcity of domestic animals, and the want of boats and proper materials for fishing, all concur to render their means of subsistence extremely difficult and precarious. Yet the desire of possessing the new toys and curiosities which strangers bring among them, hurried them away, and prevented their reflecting on the urgency of their own most natural and unavoidable wants. In this, as in numberless other circumstances, they agree with the tribes who inhabit New Zeeland, the Friendly and the Society Islands, and who seem to have had one common origin with them. Their features are very similar, so that the general character may easily be distinguished. Their colour, a yellowish brown, most like the hue of the New Zeelanders; their art of puncturing, the use of the mulberry-bark for clothing, the predilection for red paint and red dresses, the shape and workmanship of their clubs, the mode of dressing their victuals, all form a strong resemblance to the natives of the islands above mentioned. We may add to these, the simplicity of their languages, that of Easter Island being a dialect which, in many respects, resembles that of New Zeeland, especially in the harshness of pronunciation and the use of gutturals, and yet, in other instances, partakes of that of Taheitee.

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of Taheitee. The monarchical government likewiſe ſtrengthens the affinity between the Eaſter Iſlanders and the tropical tribes, its prerogatives being only varied according to the different degrees of fertility of the iſlands, and the opulence or luxury of the people. Eaſter Iſland, or, as the natives call it, WAIHU, is ſo very barren, that the whole number of plants growing upon it does not exceed twenty ſpecies, of which far the greater part is cultivated*; though the ſpace which the plantations occupy is inconſiderable, compared with that which lies waſte. The ſoil is altogether ſtoney, and parched by the ſun, and water is ſo ſcarce, that the inhabitants drink it out of wells which have a ſtrong admixture of brine; nay, ſome of our people really ſaw them drink of the ſea-water when they were thirſty. Their habit of body muſt, in ſome meaſure, be influenced by theſe circumſtances; they are meagre, and their muſcles hard and rigid; they live very frugally, and, in general, go almoſt wholly naked, only covering the head, which is the moſt ſenſible of heat, with feathered caps, and puncturing or daubing the reſt with colours. Their ideas of decency are, of courſe, very different from thoſe of nations who are accuſtomed to clothing. They cut ſhort their hair and beards

* The Spaniards mention white calabaſhes, (*pompions,*) among the vegetable productions of this iſland; but we did not ſee any.—See Mr. Dalrymple's judicious letter to Dr. Hawkeſworth.

from

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from motives of cleanlineſs, like the people of Tonga-Tabboo, but fortunately ſeemed to be leſs ſubject to leprous complaints. It is eaſy to conclude that the king of ſuch a people cannot have great and conſpicuous advantages over the commonalty, nor did our party obſerve any thing of that kind. The religion of the Eaſter Iſlanders is ſtill wholly unknown to us, becauſe abſtract ideas are not to be acquired in ſo ſhort a time as our ſtay. The ſtatues, which are erected in honour of their kings, have a great affinity to the wooden figures, called TEE, on the chief's maraïs or burying-places at Taheitee; but we could not poſſibly conſider them as idols, though Roggewein's people would paſs them for ſuch upon us. The fires which the Dutch interpret as ſacrifices, were only made uſe of by the natives to dreſs their meals; and though the Spaniards ſuſpected them to be a kind of ſuperſtition, they were, perhaps, equally miſtaken, becauſe the ſcarcity of fuel obliged the inhabitants to be careful of it, and to prevent their proviſions being uncovered after they had once been put under ground with heated ſtones.

We are unacquainted with the amuſements of the people of Eaſter Iſland, having never ſeen them engaged in any kind of diverſion, nor taken notice of a ſingle muſical inſtrument among them. They cannot, however, be entire ſtrangers to amuſements, ſince Mardo-wahai, who ſlept on board,

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board, talked a great deal of dancing, as ſoon as we had quieted his fears with reſpect to the ſafety of his perſon. The diſpoſition of theſe people is far from being warlike; their numbers are too inconſiderable, and their poverty too general, to create civil diſturbances amongſt them. It is equally improbable that they have foreign wars, ſince hitherto we know of no iſland near enough to admit of an intercourſe between the inhabitants; neither could we obtain any intelligence from thoſe of Eaſter Iſland upon the ſubject. This being premiſed, it is extraordinary that they ſhould have different kinds of offenſive weapons, and eſpecially ſuch as reſemble thoſe of the New Zeelanders; and we muſt add this circumſtance to ſeveral others, which are inexplicable to us in their kind.

Upon the whole, ſuppoſing Eaſter Iſland to have undergone a late misfortune from volcanic fires, its inhabitants are more to be pitied than any leſs civilized ſociety, being acquainted with a number of conveniencies, comforts, and luxuries of life, which they formerly poſſeſſed, and of which the remembrance muſt embitter the loſs. Mahine frequently lamented their unhappy ſituation, and ſeemed to feel for them more than he had done for the New Zeelanders, becauſe he found them much more deſtitute. He added another ſtick to the bundle which compoſed his journal, and remembered Eaſter Iſland with this obſervation, *tàta maïtaï, wbennùa èeno*, that the people were good, but the iſland very

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bad; whereas at New Zeeland he had found more fault with the natives than the country. His feelings were always warm from the heart, which education had filled with real philanthropy; they were likewiſe juſt, in general, becauſe his ſenſes were found and acute, and his underſtanding, though uncultivated, was free from many prejudices.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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[For material on recorded history see category 116.]